

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Madam Speaker:

We write to urge you to bring the FY2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 2642) before the House as a stand alone bill. Even after the House and Senate passed veterans appropriations with near unanimous support, the motion to appoint conferees or any substantive action by your office has languished.


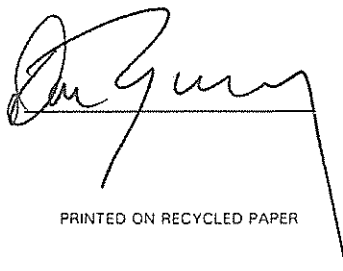
Currently, our veterans are losing \$18.5 million a day because of the delay in passing veterans appropriations. As a Congress, we are failing our veterans because we have not met our constitutional responsibility of passing annual appropriations. Instead, vital funding for veterans is being delayed due to political partisanship and media grandstanding. We believe veterans funding should be above the partisan battles and public relations ploys of Washington.

At a time when we are asking our men and women in the Armed Services to make great sacrifices in defending this nation, political gamesmanship is simply wrong. It is also a reckless approach to take after the inadequacies exposed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In recognition of the great sacrifices that our veterans make, the House voted to increase funding by \$6 billion dollars over FY07, one of the largest in the 77 year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, the will of Congress to pass this important funding has been blocked by your office and we call upon you to depoliticize this legislation so veterans can gain the funding they need.

We ask you to look past the heightened partisanship of our times and unite Congress on this issue by making it a first priority to bring a stand-alone veterans appropriations bill before Veterans Day.

We stand ready to set partisanship aside and assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Carter Pete Sessions Dan Burton

Nicholas Bachmann Lamar Smith George Radanovich

Virginia Foxx Jeff Miller Tom Alvey

Louie Gohmert Bob Latta Louie Gohmert

Phil Kline Susan M. Biskin

Tom Feeney

Tim Walberg

Phil Pinsky

Toni Tancredi

D. Bechert

Vern Buchanan

Cc:

Republican Leader John Boehner

Sen. Mitch McConnell

Majority Leader Harry Reid